

The Comprehensive Plan

VII. PARKS & RECREATION ELEMENT

PARKS & RECREATION

The
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
for
Central Point, Oregon

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INTRODUCTION

THE IMPORTANCE OF PARKS & OPEN SPACE

Both passive and active parks and open space areas, located strategically throughout the Community, are often much more important to the overall design and function of the City than generally perceived. The recreational values are probably the most obvious and will be discussed later. In addition to these are various benefits that might be considered "quantifiable", i.e., one which could be evaluated in monetary terms; and those considered "unquantifiable", or possessing intangible benefits which are not readily equated in dollar amounts.

In order to determine the level of quantifiable benefits, an extensive and detailed economic study would have to be undertaken which would include standardized monetary values for the various recreation activity demands projected over a period of time. Other potentially quantifiable benefits that have been evaluated through cost/benefit analyses in other parts of the Country include:

- Natural resource and lease income
- Land value enhancement in the vicinity of parks and open space areas
- Savings as a result of compacted growth and development, as opposed to urban sprawl
- Savings in transportation costs as a result of more efficient land use planning and encouragement of alternative modes of transportation (walking, cycling, etc.)
- Savings from the restriction of development in areas of high environmental hazard (flood plains, etc.)
- Savings from the restriction of development in areas of high service cost.

Obviously, some of the above benefits may be related more specifically to land use policies that tend to restrict urban sprawl. However, by doing so, open space preservation results. Many communities now view open space as an important element in the overall land use framework, largely because of its importance in making higher-density development, or clustered development, a palatable residential alternative to lower-density sprawl.

Of equal consideration are the many "intangible" benefits of parks and open space areas, including the following:

- Impact on the City's attractiveness to industry, including the tourism and recreation/leisure sectors.

- Benefits to mental and physical health.
- Benefits in the control of air and water pollution and solid waste disposal
- Increased recreational opportunities for the disadvantaged
- Maintenance of rural atmosphere and community identity
- Preservation of unique natural features
- Preservation of agricultural lands
- Aesthetic and scenic benefits.
- Increased overall attractiveness of the Community

It is important to realize that natural areas and open space are diminishing resources which cannot be replenished or re-produced in the future. To ensure that adequate park and open space lands are preserved for the future, the City will have to act as early in the planning process as possible.

THE IMPORTANCE OF RECREATION

The citizens of Central Point live in a period of constant change, including social, physical, economic, and spiritual change. The impacts of these changes affect all residents regardless of their physical or economic position, age, or race. As the stresses of change accumulate, increased and new demands are placed on society and on the City to provide facilities and programs to meet the growing recreational needs of the community.

Recreation enriches and strengthens people and their communities physically, socially and economically. Many of life's most meaningful experiences, including sense of identity, happiness, fulfillment, self-expression, health, adventure, challenge, recognition, accomplishment, acceptance, contentment, friendship and companionship, are identified with various forms of recreation.

Recreational areas, both natural and man-made, can be used in as many different ways as the interest and imagination of the user will allow. Recreational opportunities are sought by all people regardless of age, physical or socio-economic condition, and can be enjoyed on an individual, team or group basis.

The Parks and Recreation Element of Central Point's Comprehensive Plan will assist the City in the recognition of recreational deficiencies and opportunities, set goals and policies, and ensure that the Comprehensive Plan reflects the present and future recreational needs of the Community.

GOALS

Statewide Planning Goal #8 (Recreational Needs) is:

"To satisfy the recreational needs of the citizens of the state and visitors."

In striving toward this overall goal, it will be the City's responsibility to provide a plan for meeting local recreational needs that is (1) in coordination with private enterprise, (2) in appropriate proportions to the population (user groups), (3) in such quantity, quality and location as is consistent with the availability of the resources to meet such requirements, and (4) in coordination with other local and regional needs and plans.

In addition to the statewide planning goal, the following goals were developed to relate more specifically to the City of Central Point:

- 1 -- To provide a sufficient range of recreation opportunities and facilities to meet the needs of all ages and interests throughout the Community.
- 2 -- To provide an equitable distribution of recreation facilities throughout the Community to ensure the easiest possible access by all local residents.
- 3 -- To enhance neighborhood and Community quality by providing for the development of attractive, functional, and accessible parks and open space areas throughout the City.
- 4 -- To encourage educational opportunities through park and recreation programs that may include learning activities in the fields of music, fine arts, performing arts, nature, or other areas.
- 5 -- To encourage the balanced development of commercial recreation facilities to ensure a more diverse range of opportunities for both recreation and entertainment.
- 6 -- To provide for the development of tourist and recreational area support facilities, such as motels, restaurants, etc., in close proximity to or easily accessible to such facilities as the airport, the County's Exposition Park, downtown Central Point or other locations, as appropriate.
- 7 -- To ensure that local parks and recreation plans and programs are coordinated with those of the County and other appropriate jurisdictions.

RECREATION PARTICIPATION

Before getting into a discussion of existing and needed recreational facilities or programs, it would be interesting, and helpful, to determine the popularity of the many forms of recreational activities that already exist. This sort of comparative analysis will help to identify existing deficiencies and more effectively plan for future facilities.

Figure VII-1, on the following page, gives a statewide overview of recreational activities. It shows the percentage of Oregon residents that participate in the listed activities, according to the 1975 Oregon Outdoor Recreation Demand Bulletin. As can be seen, more people participate in picnicking than any other recreational activity -- approximately three out of every four.

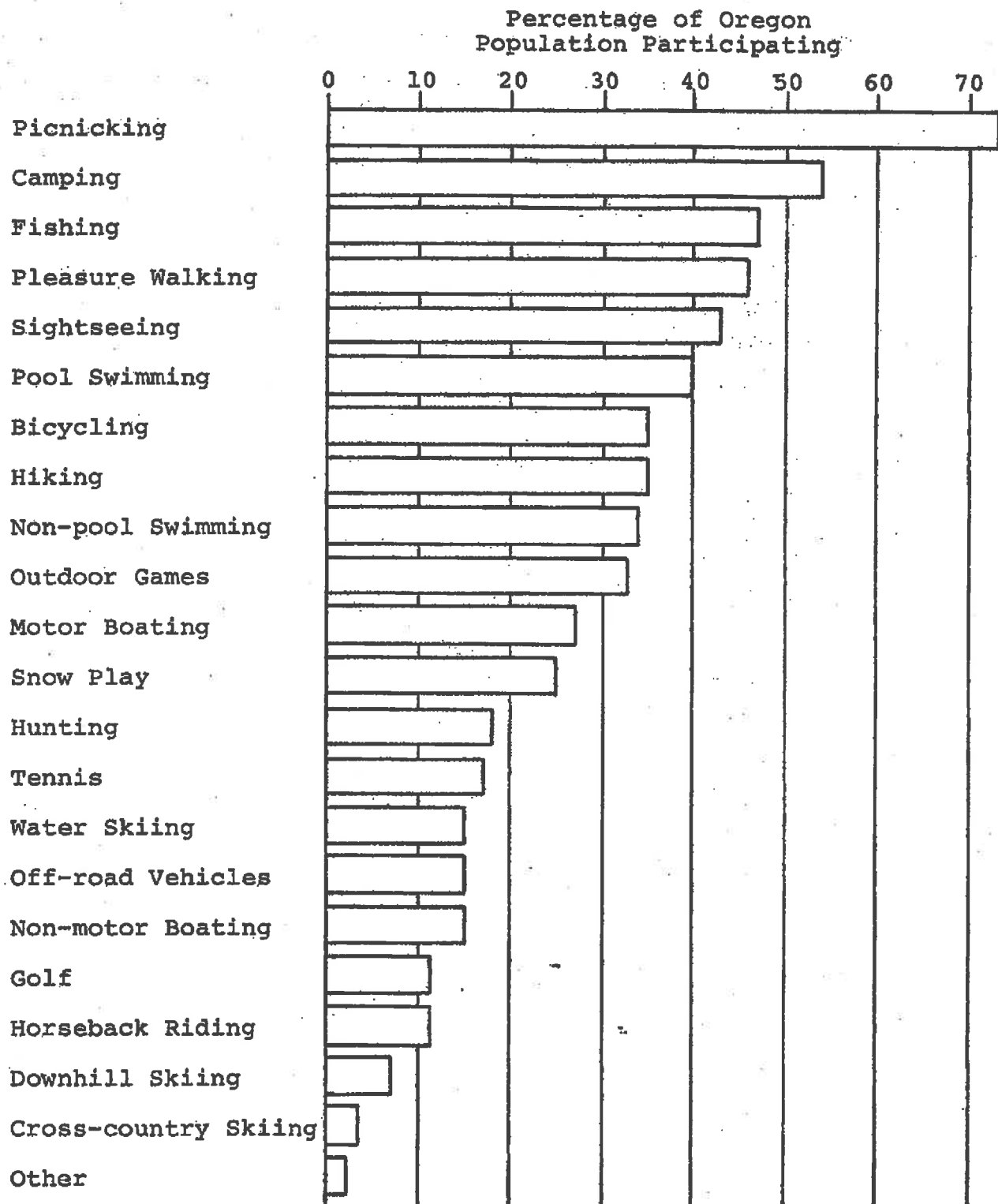
Figure VII-2 compares the statewide participation figures with similar figures for Jackson County, as listed in the County's proposed Recreation Element of the Comprehensive Plan. Again, picnicking showed the highest percentage of participants, followed by camping, fishing, outdoor games, and pleasure walking.

These participation figures give a good indication of the range of each activity, or which activities are available to and enjoyed by the greatest numbers of people. However, they do not show the frequency of the activities. For example, although 83 percent of all Jackson County residents participate in the activity of picnicking, many probably go on a picnic once or twice a year. In contrast, some of the other activities, such as swimming, pleasure walking or bicycling are daily activities for many people. To get a better indication of this "rate" of participation, per capita figures are used. This is the average number of individual activity "occasions" during a year, if the total population participated. The per capita figure is obtained by dividing the total number of participant occasions by the total population. Figure VII-3 lists the activities in order of the per capita rate.

Since one of the criteria for the selection of recreational facilities is meeting the greatest overall need in the form of facilities that the greatest proportion of residents can utilize, Central Point should consider giving primary consideration to the provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists, followed by facilities for outdoor games, pool swimming and picnicking. If adequate facilities for these activities are not already provided in Central Point, they should be given high priority for future development plans.

VII-1

ACTIVITY POPULARITY



Source: Oregon Outdoor Recreation Demand Bulletin, 1975.

VII-2
COMPARISON OF
RECREATION PARTICIPATION RATES
(Oregon & Jackson County)

ACTIVITY	PERCENT OF COUNTY RESIDENTS PARTICIPATING	PERCENT OF STATE RESIDENTS PARTICIPATING
Picnicking	82.9%	73%
Camping	62.1%	54%
Fishing	49.1%	47%
Outdoor Games	44.7%	33%
Pleasure Walking	43.3%	46%
Non-pool Swimming	42.3%	34%
Pool Swimming	36.9%	40%
Hiking	35.1%	35%
Motor Boating	32.4%	27%
Bicycling	31.1%	35%
Hunting	22.9%	18%
Sightseeing	21.2%	43%
Tennis	16.0%	17%
Water Skiing	15.4%	15%
Off-road Vehicles	15.0%	15%
Non-motor Boating	9.9%	15%
Horseback Riding	8.2%	11%
Golf	7.8%	11%
Downhill Skiing	5.5%	7%
Cross-country Skiing	2.7%	3%
Other	2.7%	2%

SOURCE: Oregon Outdoor Recreation
Demand Bulletin, 1975.

Jackson County Comp. Plan
Proposed Recreation Element

VII-3

JACKSON COUNTY
PER CAPITA PARTICIPATION

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>TOTAL ACTIVITY OCCASIONS</u>	<u>PER CAPITA RATE</u>
1. Pleasure Walking	3,317,520	30.05
2. Bicycling	3,141,984	28.45
3. Outdoor Games	2,030,256	18.39
4. Pool Swimming	1,787,376	16.19
5. Picnicking	983,644	8.91
6. Fishing	716,496	6.49
7. Sightseeing	691,104	6.26
8. Off-road Vehicles	536,544	4.86
9. Camping	513,360	4.65
10. Non-pool Swimming	493,488	4.47
11. Tennis	483,552	4.38
12. Motor Boating	346,656	3.14
13. Hiking	327,888	2.97
14. Horseback Riding	284,832	2.58
15. Hunting	230,736	2.09
16. Water Skiing	178,848	1.62
17. Golf	130,272	1.18
18. Downhill Skiing	119,232	1.08
19. Non-motor Boating	85,008	0.77
20. Cross-country Skiing	19,872	0.18
Other	140,208	1.27

SOURCE: Jackson County Comp. Plan
Proposed Recreation Element

INVENTORY OF EXISTING
PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES

REGIONAL LEVEL

The residents of Southern Oregon enjoy a wide range of recreational opportunities during all seasons of the year. Fishing, hunting, boating, hiking, cycling, camping, and many other leisure-time activities are available from Crater Lake to the sea and most are within a two hour drive from Central Point. In addition, there are such cultural opportunities as theaters, music and art festivals, museums, and others at various times throughout the year within a half hour drive.

The following is a partial listing of recreational and cultural opportunities on the regional level. The map on the following page shows their proximity to Central Point.

1. Jacksonville (historical community)
 - Peter Britt Music Festival (August)
 - Jacksonville Museum (Old County Courthouse, 1883)
 - Pioneer Village (Museum)
 - Jacksonville Cemetery
 - Pioneer Days (June)
 - Many historic homes and other buildings
2. Medford
 - Pear Blossom Festival (April)
 - Various music and art activities and exhibits
 - Theaters, clubs, cultural organizations.
3. Ashland
 - Oregon Shakespearean Festival
 - Interesting shops and art galleries
 - Lithia Park
4. Mt. Ashland Ski Area
5. Jackson County Exposition Park (and County Fairgrounds)
6. Rogue River -- Fishing, boating, hiking, etc.
7. Crater Lake -- Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, sightseeing, etc.
8. Pacific Crest Trail -- Hiking, horseback riding.
9. Winter and summer recreation areas in surrounding mountains.
10. Bear Creek Greenway -- Bicycling, hiking, nature study.
11. Cantrall-Buckley Park -- Camping, picnicking, swimming, etc.
12. Applegate Dam and Recreational Area

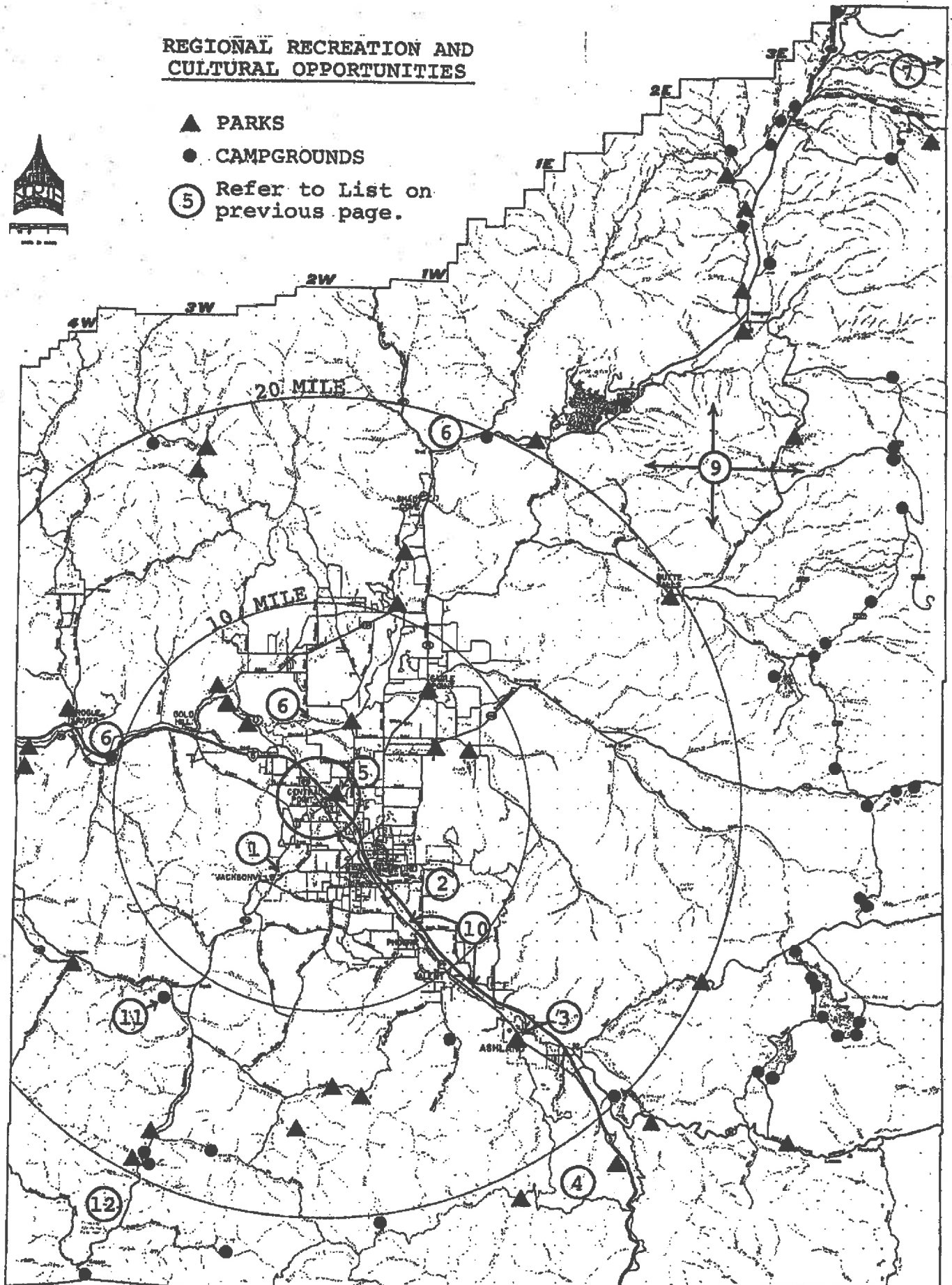
REGIONAL RECREATION AND CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES



▲ PARKS

● CAMPGROUNDS

⑤ Refer to List on
previous page.



LOCAL LEVEL

The "regional level" discussion of recreational opportunities showed that there are already many diverse cultural and recreational facilities available throughout Jackson County. However, these generally require an automobile or other means of transportation and do not directly serve the local community needs.

Cultural and recreational opportunities at the local level are provided primarily by the City and by the School District, with some very limited facilities provided by the private sector.

The facilities currently available in Central Point are located at public parks and schools, as described below:

CENTRAL POINT PARK -- 1.86 acre facility near the downtown section of the City.

- Grass areas and shade trees
- Walkways and benches
- Rest Rooms
- Barbeques
- Pavillion
- Playground Equipment
- Horseshoe pits (2)
- Tennis Court (Under construction)

VAN HORN PARK -- 2 acre facility in southern portion of the City west of Freeman Road.

- Grass, small evergreen trees, walkways
- Basketball Court (2 baskets)
- Tennis Court (1)
- Lighting

LIBERTY PARK -- 0.5 acre site north of Pine Street and west of Front Street, adjacent to railroad. Consists of grass and some young trees, no other facilities.

RICHARDSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - 10 acre school site with 3.89 acre City-owned park adjacent to it.

- Open play fields
- Soccer field with goals
- 4 small softball backstops
- 2 basketball backboards
- Playground equipment
- Gymnasium in school

JEWETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL -- 10 acre site north of Pine Street and east of Tenth Street.

- Open play fields (approx. 2 acres unused)
- Soccer field with goals
- 3 small softball backstops
- 6 basketball backboards
- Playground equipment
- Gymnasium in school

CENTRAL POINT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL -- 11.5 acre site south of the downtown area between Second and Fourth Streets.

- Open play fields (largely dirt)
- Soccer field with goals
- 4 small softball backstops
- 5 basketball backboards
- 2 tennis courts
- Dirt running track
- Gymnasium building on east side of Fourth Street

SCENIC JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL -- Approx. 14 acre site on south side of Scenic Avenue in northern portion of City.

- Open play fields
- 2 basketball backboards
- Football/soccer field
- Softball Field
- Regulation 90 ft. Babe Ruth baseball field
- Dirt running track
- Gymnasium in school

CRATER HIGH SCHOOL -- Approx. 34 acre site west of Third Street north of downtown area.

- Open fields
- 2 tennis courts
- Surfaced running track
- Football Stadium
- Gymnasium in school
- Girl's Gymnasium in school
- Regulation 90 ft. Babe Ruth baseball field

In addition to the above-listed facilities, there will soon be another regulation 90 foot baseball field located on School District property on Upton Road, east of the freeway.

Each of the schools has a gymnasium which is used for indoor activities, City League basketball, PTA functions, and other uses, as necessary, in addition to the regular school functions. Generally, programs are carried out by the School District and include an extensive "adult education" program. This program is available to the public and includes such fields of interest as

fine arts, creative writing, photography, gardening, volleyball, dancing, conditioning, and others. This program is important to the provision of educational and recreational needs in Central Point. Unfortunately, it is only available during the fall and winter terms.

The Bear Creek Greenway also provides limited recreational opportunities to Central Point residents, primarily in the area of nature study and hiking at this time. The completion of the Greenway project, as planned by Jackson County Parks and Recreation Department, will result in a unique system of bicycle and equestrian trails within easy reach of most Central Point residents. The proposed bicycle system (later in this element) will help to ensure that the City's future bicycle facilities are coordinated with the County Greenway bikeways, as well as with local parks, schools, and other important activity nodes. Because of the importance of the Bear Creek Greenway in Central Point's future, a separate section is included to provide a more detailed description later in this element. There is also a section pertaining more specifically to bicycle facilities.

PARKS & RECREATION NEEDS AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

NATIONAL PARK STANDARDS

One method that is often used to evaluate existing recreational facilities is a comparison with various standards. Cities, counties, regional agencies, states and federal agencies often develop and adopt their own standards. Although there are usually some differences between sets of standards, they do provide some guidance in the preparation of a facilities plan or an element of the Comprehensive Plan. The standards that will be discussed in this element are those of the National Recreation and Parks Association and those contained in the Oregon Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan.

In 1970, the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) revised its standards to recommend 10 acres per 1,000 population for local park lands and 20 acres per 1,000 for regional park lands. Although some communities have actually exceeded this minimum acreage, many others have found these standards to be excessive and unrealistic.

The City of Central Point's previous Comprehensive Plan included a policy for park development, as follows:

"The City shall seek to achieve a standard of park development of at least ten acres per thousand population; developed so that distribution of open space will be throughout the City and so that the maintenance and development in the urban areas will be encouraged to carry the land conservation and development carrying capacities of resources in air, land, and water to their maximum."

Since the quality of the overall parks and recreation system depends on its ability to adapt to changing recreational preferences, quality of design, locational factors, and the integration of cultural and physical programs, it is not logical to base the City's parks program on an acres per thousand standard alone. Therefore, if the City can achieve a ratio of 10 acres per thousand population that includes a full range of recreational facilities and programs, it should be able to adequately meet the needs of the community.

The NRPA has also developed standards for the provision of specific facilities within urban parks. Although these will depend on the specific demand, the standards provide a sort of "rule of thumb" guideline for park planning purposes. The following table shows these standards compared to existing facilities in Central Point and also shows the year 2000 "need", assuming the City grows to a population of 16,000.

VII-4

RECREATION FACILITIES NEEDS
ACCORDING TO NRPA STANDARDS

	NRPA STANDARD	1980 EXISTING	1980 NEED	2000 NEED
Regulation Baseball Diamonds	1/6,000	2*	1	2
Softball Diamonds	1/3,000	13**	2	5
Adult, night-lighted Softball Diamonds	1/10,000	0	0	1
Basketball Courts	1/500	17***	12	32
Youth Football & Soccer Fields	1/3,000	5	2	5
Tennis Courts	1/1,000	6	6	16
Swimming Pools 25m	1/10,000	0	0	1
50m	1/20,000	0	0	0
Community Centers	1/20,000	0	0	0
Neighborhood Centers	1/10,000	0	0	1
Track Fields	1/15,000	1****	0	1
Off-road Vehicle Fac.	1/20,000	0	0	0
Golf Courses	1/25,000	0	0	0

* Both diamonds at Crater H.S. and Scenic J.H.S. are 90 ft. diamonds but have short fields. A full regulation field is now under construction.

** These are diamonds at schools and may not all qualify as regulation softball diamonds.

*** These are backboards and hoops only, not full courts. Does not include those in gymnasiums.

**** Crater H.S. -- Scenic J.H.S. also has a track and field of lesser quality, but useable.

OREGON PARK STANDARDS

The 1977 Needs Bulletin of the Oregon Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan contains a methodology for computing facility needs, based on a number of factors. These include a "peak day factor" which estimates the heaviest expected demand for a facility; a "wish to use factor" to determine the percentage of participants in a given activity who can be expected to use the facilities; and a "turnover rate" to determine the number of users expected to utilize a facility in a day. The statistical demand is referred to as "activity occasions".

These factors were used in a statistical needs calculation for some of the recreational activities that would be most suitable for Central Point. The following table shows the results for 1980 (estimated population of 6,500) and 2000 (estimated population of 16,000).

VII-5

STATISTICAL NEEDS CALCULATION FOR KEY FACILITIES

	1980 ACTIVITY OCCASIONS	1980 NEEDS	2000 ACTIVITY OCCASIONS	2000 NEEDS
Picnic Tables	57,915	65	196,020	166
Swimming Pools	105,235	1	356,180	1
Walking Paths	195,325	15.6 mi.	661,100	40 mi.
Bikeways	184,925	6.9 mi.	625,900	17.7 mi.
Outdoor Games	119,535	5 fields	404,580	12 fields
<p><u>SOURCE:</u> 1977 Needs Bulletin of Oregon Comp. Outdoor Recreation Plan</p>				

From this table it can be seen that there is apparently a need for a swimming pool and a considerable number of picnic tables. The State's emphasis on the provision of trails and bikeways is also reflected in the figures.

Central Point already has enough outdoor recreation fields to meet the "outdoor games" standards. The Bicycle System Plan that will be discussed later in this element provides for approximately 14 miles of County-planned bikeways plus another 8 miles of City proposed routes, which would meet the year 2000 standards if all are constructed. Walking paths will be provided as a combination of City sidewalks, bikeways, and Greenway trails.

VII-6

EXPECTED INCREASES
IN ACTIVITY DEMAND

Anticipated percentage increases in
activity demands for period 1980-2000,
based on total activity occasions.

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>REGIONAL INCREASE*</u>	<u>STATEWIDE INCREASE</u>
Camping	39.4%	34.8%
Picnicking	40.9%	29.2%
Pool Swimming	29.3%	26.3%
Non-pool Swimming	29.3%	26.3%
Sightseeing	35.6%	28.2%
Fishing	25.3%	24.3%
Boating	32.1%	27.6%
Water Skiing	32.4%	30.5%
Walking & Hiking	27.9%	22.1%
Hunting	26.7%	27.8%
Outdoor Games	30.2%	24.0%
Bicycling	27.4%	23.2%
Golfing	28.1%	24.1%
Horseback Riding	28.5%	28.9%
Cultural Events	25.9%	23.7%
Snow Play/Skiing	36.6%	33.6%
Other	57.5%	35.8%

* District VIII area, consisting
of Jackson and Josephine Counties.

SOURCE: Oregon Outdoor Recreation
Demand Bulletin, 1975.

The "regional" column in the above table shows that the greatest anticipated demand over the next twenty years will be in the activities of picnicking, camping, snow play/skiing, sightseeing, water skiing and boating. Most of these are not the types of activities normally accommodated within a community the size of Central Point. However, it can be seen that all activities will show a significant increase in demand with an overall average of 32.5 percent over the next twenty years. The more local-oriented activities will increase even more according to the local population

COMMERCIAL RECREATION

The public sector cannot provide all types of recreational facilities that may be desired within the community. The City's role is primarily to provide the most appropriate facilities to meet the greatest needs. And, since public funds are involved, the citizens of Central Point would be most in favor of expenditures for facilities that are in the interests of a large cross-section of the community.

Certain entertainment and recreational facilities are more easily administered and developed by the private sector and may serve more specific sectors of the population. These are just as important to the total recreational package as public parks and other public facilities and should be encouraged to meet their particular needs.

In July of 1979 a "Consumer and Commercial Development Survey" was conducted in Central Point to determine various community needs and desires. One of the questions was "What entertainment or recreation facilities would you like to have in Central Point?" The answers were:

Movie Theater -----	53%
Bowling Alley -----	41%
Skating Rink -----	32%
Family Restaurant -----	51%
Dinner House -----	25%
Other (Swim Pool). -----	13%

At the present time, Central Point relies heavily on Medford for commercial entertainment and recreational facilities. The City is currently lacking in all of the above areas. The provision of these types of facilities depends greatly on the particular economic and market conditions of the business. The City, through the Economic Development Committee, should continue to encourage quality entertainment and recreational facilities to locate in Central Point. The availability of economic and population statistical data will help to keep potential developers aware of the market conditions in the City.

The Comprehensive Plan provides for these types of land uses in the most appropriate locations. Commercial recreational and entertainment facilities would be most suitable for areas designated in the Land Use Element for Tourist Commercial uses, generally along east Pine Street and Head Road. Located within this tourist and professional corridor, these facilities would be available and easily accessible to all areas of Central Point, as well as to users coming from other areas via the freeway.

PARK DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

All residential neighborhoods, especially those of higher density and limited private yard areas, require a wide range of facilities for both children and adults that are easily accessible to the living units. These facilities should include preschool play areas such as tot-lots which can be closely supervised, centralized play areas for older elementary school age children with appropriate play equipment, outdoor landscaped areas for passive activities, and larger open areas for higher intensity recreation and organized sports. These and other types of areas can be included in a comprehensive parks system. The following is a general description of the various types of parks that should be considered in the planning and development of Central Point's Comprehensive Plan:

PLAY-LOT, VEST-POCKET PARK & MINI-PARK

These designations refer to small areas developed and used for open space or recreational purposes in accordance with the particular needs of the neighborhoods in which they are located. Used as play-lots for children, they supplement individual yards that are often inadequate in higher density neighborhoods. In areas having a high percentage of senior citizens, these areas will provide visual relief and a quiet passive area in which to relax or meet with friends.

The size of these parks can vary from about 2,500 sq.ft. upward, but usually the size depends largely on the availability of vacant lots in already developed neighborhoods. The effective service radius of these parks is quite small, usually a block or two.

The biggest drawback to these types of parks is that they are expensive to maintain and difficult to administer. One larger neighborhood park is usually more cost effective than several small mini-parks in meeting the same needs. However, the mini-park may be a viable solution to meeting the needs of older neighborhoods in Central Point where land costs and land use intensity are high.

Another adaptation of the mini-park concept might be in relation to the historical preservation of Central Point Elementary, as proposed by the School District and discussed in the Environmental Management Element. Such a park use would be similar to the concept of a "Historical Resource Park" as described in the Oregon Outdoor Recreation Plan. Since the structure is unique and a focal point of Third Street, the development of a passive mini-

park in front of the school would serve to protect the view of the building while, at the same time, provide a recreational or open space area for the neighborhood. Since protection of the historic resource is an important requirement of any grants that may be requested for the restoration work, the development of a historical resource park in this location would surely be more acceptable than constructing a building that may block the view and disrupt the historical impact of the school building.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

This type of park is generally 5 to 20 acres in size and serves the recreational needs of a single neighborhood of from 2,000 to 5,000 residents. The size and population ranges are fairly wide and depend on a number of factors, including:

- Neighborhood population
- Service area
- Major physical boundaries
- Recreational facility needs

The service radius of a neighborhood park is usually a maximum of one-quarter mile, putting park patrons within a reasonable walking or bicycling distance. The park should be easily accessible by pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists. Many communities have been very successful in locating the neighborhood park in close proximity or adjacent to the neighborhood elementary school to maximize joint use of facilities. This is not always possible, but is desirable and helps to solidify the image of the neighborhood "center".

A typical neighborhood park may include any or all of the following:

- Play lot for preschool children
- Play area and equipment for elementary children
- Paved multi-purpose outdoor courts for basketball, volleyball, handball, etc.
- Tennis courts (preferably in groups of 4 or more)
- Open turfed free-play or game areas
- Landscaped and shaded passive areas
- Team sports fields (baseball, soccer, etc.)
- Picnic areas
- Swimming and/or wading pool
- Neighborhood Center Building
- Off-street parking, as necessary

COMMUNITY PARK

Community parks supplement the neighborhood parks by providing for activities that require more space or that are specialized functions that must serve a larger portion of the community to be justified. For Central Point, the community park would serve the entire community since the maximum service population is about 25,000. As in the case of neighborhood parks, the community park should also be located adjacent to a school in order to promote joint and more efficient use of both facilities. The park should provide a wide range of facilities for all ages and interests and may include any of the following facilities:

- Play facilities for preschool and elementary children
- Paved multi-purpose courts
- Concrete area for dancing or roller skating
- Large, open turfed free-play area and sports fields (often with bleachers)
- Swimming and/or wading pool or other water feature
- Individual, family and group picnic areas
- Tennis, horseshoes, roque, shuffleboard or other court-type games, and bowling greens
- Archery range
- Passive, landscaped areas
- Outdoor amphitheater or special events areas
- Community Center Complex (meeting and class rooms, offices, storage, rest rooms, equipment rooms, physical conditioning/weight-lifting rooms, multi-purpose rooms, senior citizens facilities, etc.)
- Undeveloped natural areas or historical features
- Off-street parking, as necessary

The Oregon Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan recommends that approximately 70 percent of a community park be developed with the remaining 30 percent left in a natural state for uses such as trails, nature study, or reserved for future use. In all cases, the community park should be accessible to pedestrians and cyclists and an important activity node within the bikeway system. Because of the park's size and large service area, it should be located on or near major arterial streets for easy access, since many users will be driving to this facility.

The generally accepted minimum size of a community park is about 20 acres with a standard of 2.5 acres per 1,000 population. At this rate, Central Point could support such a park when it reaches a population of about 8,000 and will need two community parks by the year 2000.

REGIONAL PARK

These are normally required to provide the urban dweller with an opportunity to get away from the noise and congestion of the urban area without having to travel a great distance. A central location is preferable but not often available, so most regional parks are developed along the urban fringe or just outside the urbanized area.

The responsibility for providing regional parks generally falls on the County. Jackson County's Exposition Park could be considered a regional park, although it might better fit the description of a "sports" or "special purpose" regional facility. Expo Park is the location of the Jackson County Fairgrounds and is used for a number of special events such as car shows, animal exhibitions, hobby and crafts shows, rock concerts, etc. Development plans call for additional sports facilities, including a race track and development of ponds for recreational uses.

Expo Park will be integrated with another major regional recreational facility, the Bear Creek Greenway. The Greenway will function primarily as a natural area with a trail system that will link the Expo Park with nearby urban areas via a bicycle, pedestrian and equestrian trail system. Central Point should ensure that its plans provide for the maximum linkage with the Greenway system through its bikeway system plans and other non-motorized and pedestrian access provisions.

PROPOSED PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES

Public parks and open space areas, as shown on the Comprehensive Plan, total 162.09 acres, which is 10.7 percent of the total land area within the Urban Growth Boundary. As previously discussed, the City's goal is to provide a ratio of about ten acres of parklands per 1,000 residents. Considering a population projection of 16,000 residents, this calculates to 10.1 acres/1,000.

The total proposed acreage includes approximately 100 acres of open space within the Bear Creek Greenway south of the Pine Street Interchange and along the east side of the freeway. This area will be available to Central Point residents for specialized recreation, primarily bicycling, hiking, nature study, and other purposes, as proposed in the Bear Creek Greenway Plan, which was adopted by Jackson County in December, 1982.

Approximately 62 acres are proposed specifically for parks and recreational facilities other than the Greenway and school facilities. This amounts to about four acres per 1,000 residents for local parks, which is about three times the amount that is currently available within the City of Central Point. In addition to the existing park facilities, new parks would be located strategically in residential neighborhoods according to the standards and guidelines presented in this element of the Plan. In most cases, proposed parks are ten acres in size and located to best serve the immediate neighborhood within a radius of about one-quarter mile. A special-purpose park is proposed west of Table Rock Road to provide a buffer between the industrial land uses along the arterial highway and residential uses to the west. This park would have a linear configuration, taking advantage of the relatively steep topography and existing trees and other vegetation. It would be about ten acres in size.

Three ten-acre neighborhood parks are shown in the southern portions of the community. Two of these are east of Highway 99 and one is on the west side. The locations of these parks are not specified and the sites have not been acquired at this time. The actual shapes and locations will be determined as development plans are finalized and parklands are either dedicated to the City or "in-lieu" fees paid, as required by the City. The City will coordinate the development of all future parks to ensure that they are of sufficient size, a desirable configuration, and will best serve their respective neighborhoods.

The map on the following page shows the locations of the proposed parks and recreational facilities, as illustrated on the Comprehensive Plan map.

PROPOSED PLAN FOR
PARKS & RECREATION AREAS

(Also: See Land Use Element)



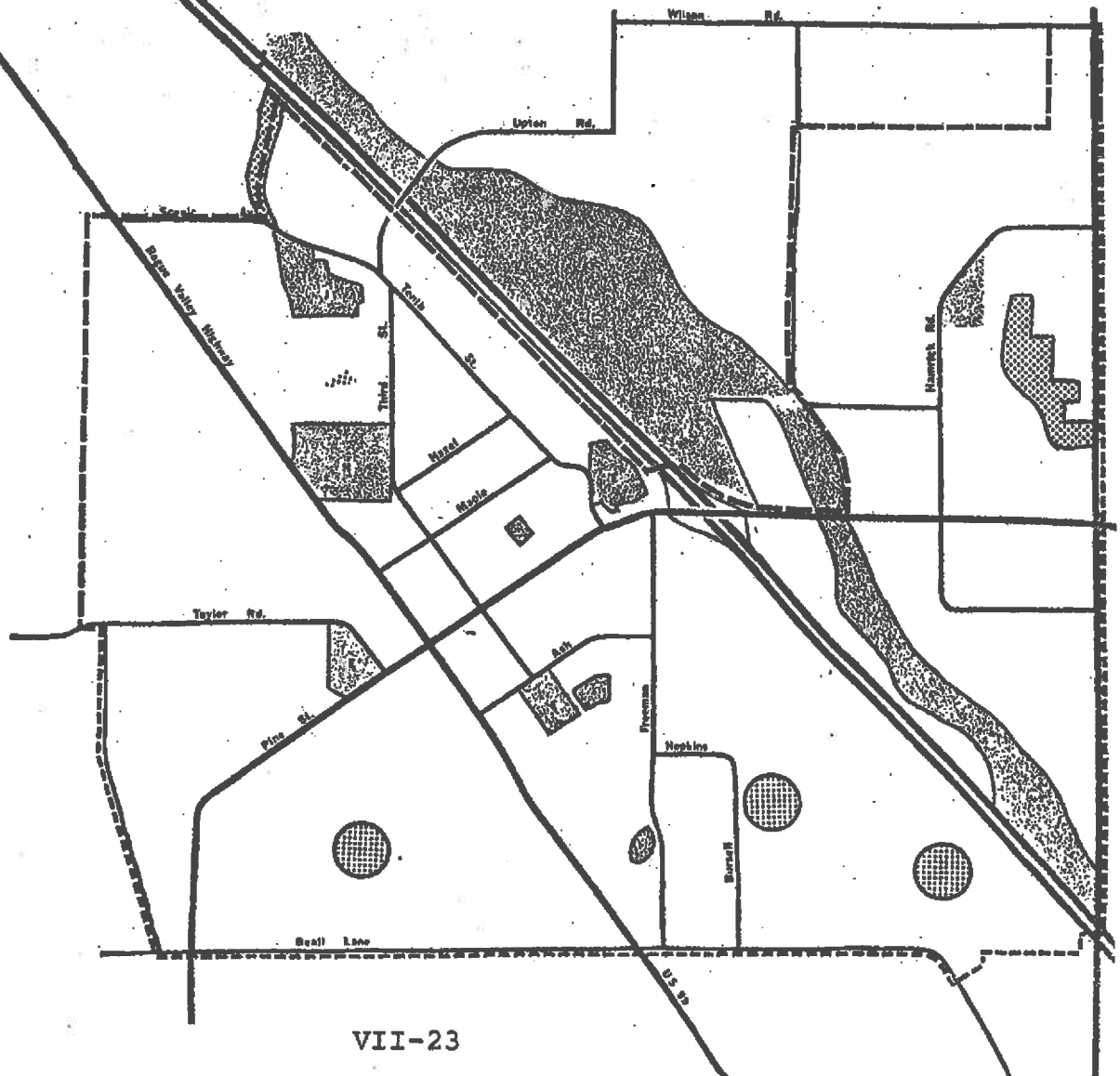
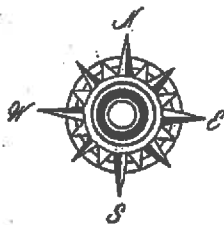
EXISTING PARKS & SCHOOLS (Incl. Greenway)



PROPOSED PARKS & RECREATIONAL AREAS



Urban Growth Boundary



BEAR CREEK GREENWAY

The goal of the Bear Creek Greenway project is:

"To acquire lands along Bear Creek to preserve the natural environment of the flood plain and to protect the recreational, scenic, and historic aspects of the Creek."

If completed as planned, the Bear Creek Greenway will help to fill the recreational, economic, and spiritual needs of all Jackson County residents. Present and future areas of concern include increased close-to-home recreational opportunities, protection of wildlife habitat, natural filters for the improvement of water quality, reduction of flood damage, and the maintenance of adequate quantities of water during normal low flow periods. Development within the 33-mile corridor will include trails with support facilities for pedestrians, equestrians, and bicyclists to connect developed park nodes and urban areas.

As cities along the creek become more populous, the need for protecting the natural environment also becomes increasingly important, as has been discussed in the Environmental Management Element of this Comprehensive Plan. By the year 2000 it has been estimated that four out of five persons in Jackson County will be living within three miles of Bear Creek.

By acquiring lands along Bear Creek and developing trails for recreation and alternative forms of transportation, Jackson County is addressing recreational issues that are important to all levels of government. The provision of recreational opportunities close to where people live and work is a high priority of the Federal, State and local levels of government, and is consistent with the goals and policies of Central Point. Furthermore, by providing facilities that encourage non-motorized recreation and transportation, the Bear Creek Greenway is responding to the need to promote energy conservation and improved air quality.

Individual communities along the Greenway are responsible for the planning, development and continued maintenance of areas within their city limits, including local bikeway and trail systems that provide local access to the Greenway system. The Greenway itself will be administered by the County Parks and Recreation Department.

The Bear Creek Greenway could easily become the focal point of the Community in the future, especially when development occurs on the eastern side of the creek. Central Point, through the provisions of this Plan, is attempting to maximize the many potentials of this corridor, make its recreational and natural qualities available and accessible to residents of the community, and at the same time protect and enhance the natural environment of the Greenway.

The Bear Creek Greenway Plan, which provides the basis for overall development and use of Greenway lands, was adopted in December, 1982.

BICYCLE FACILITIES

INTRODUCTION

During the past two decades, the bicycle has become a major mode of travel for the purposes of both recreation and transportation. Unfortunately, this sudden popularity has not been matched with safe and efficient bicycle-related facilities. Government at all levels has overlooked, and in many cases continues to overlook, the bicycle in favor of research and planning for multi-million dollar transportation concepts that would do basically what the bicycle is already doing -- providing low-cost convenient transportation on a local or sub-regional scale.

During the early and mid-1960's, the bicycle was considered a toy for young children and basic transportation for those too young to drive. At that time the bicycle was a heavy steel and chrome single-speed vehicle riding on balloon tires. It was ridden either on the streets or on sidewalks and was generally pushed up hills.

Today, the bicycle of a generation ago has been replaced by much more efficient light-weight bicycles with multiple gears, making hill climbing almost effortless. Rather than retiring their bicycles to buy cars, teenagers are now buying bikes at a faster rate than ever before. Their parents and other adults are also taking to bicycles for short trips to the market or for recreational riding for pleasure or exercise. With increasing emphasis on the conservation of energy and the inconveniences and expenses of operating an automobile, the bicycle has taken on a new image as a popular and logical mode of transportation.

Although the bicycle has been used for transportation around the world for generations, people are just beginning to realize that it is one of the most economical and efficient means of transportation that exists. The mechanical efficiency of a bicycle is in the 85 to 98 percent range and the owner can usually perform most of the repairs and maintenance. Roadways and paths for bicycles are much less expensive than those for automobiles, parking is usually not a problem, and the impact on the natural environment is minimal.

Individuals from every socioeconomic background make up the bicycling public. Almost everyone can afford to own and operate a bike and it is one of the few modes of private transportation that almost every age can use. Therefore, the furthering of the cycling cause is obviously in the public interest and in nature's interest as well. As pointed out in other elements of this Plan, future generations will be greatly benefitted by actions taken today to decrease pollution and work with the environment rather than against it. The bicycle fits into this scheme very well.

JACKSON COUNTY BICYCLE PLAN

In 1975, Jackson County formed a Citizen's Advisory Committee on Bicycling and Trails to gather background information and suggest policies that would assist in the development of a Comprehensive Plan for Bicycling. In 1978 a new Jackson County Bicycle Committee was formed and the Comprehensive Bicycle Plan for Jackson County was adopted on August 23, 1978.

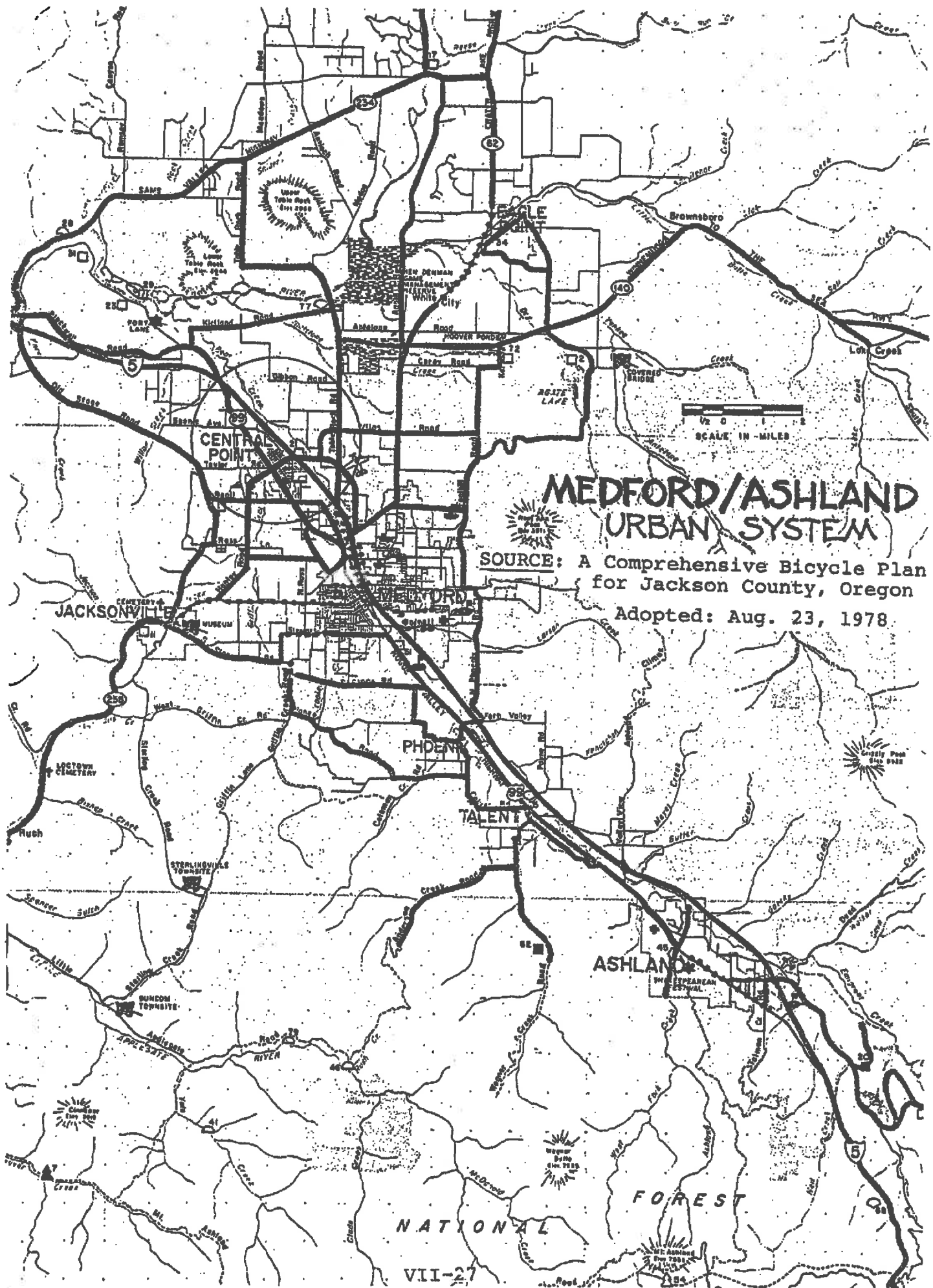
The County's Plan is County-wide in scope, recognizing the mobility of cyclists and the bicycle's role in both transportation and recreation. The Plan also provides standardized bikeway design guidelines and a master plan of routes that will prove very useful to Central Point in the design and construction of a local bicycle facilities system that will link with the County system.

Among the findings documented in the County Bicycle Plan are:

- The climate and topography of Jackson County is well suited to bicycle use. The relative absence of wind, limited precipitation and mild winters are conducive to bicycle riding.
- Since the majority of the urban areas are along Bear Creek and on relatively flat terrain, bicycle commuting is feasible. Steeper terrain outside the urban areas provides a challenge for recreational riders.
- The bicycle is the most energy efficient form of transportation available.
- Bicycling is one of the most popular recreational activities available to County residents.
- Population projections show that increasing proportions of County residents will be living in the communities along Bear Creek, making bicycle facilities available to greater numbers of residents and a larger percentage of the County's population.

The County Plan puts safety first in bicycle route planning and has outlined the following items as the basis for determining the expenditure of funds for route facilities:

- HIGHEST -- A bikeway which exhibits both (1) an established amount of bicycle traffic and (2) an extreme hazard to the safety of the cyclist.
- SECOND --- Any other bike route designated in the Comprehensive Plan. These routes provide the framework for the bikeway system.
- THIRD ---- A bikeway determined to be a necessary link with existing portions of the system.



**MEDFORD/ASHLAND
URBAN SYSTEM**

SOURCE: A Comprehensive Bicycle Plan
for Jackson County, Oregon

Adopted: Aug. 23, 1978

The map on the preceding page shows the County's proposed bikeway system. As can be seen, several of the routes, or portions of routes, pass through Central Point or the Urban Growth Boundary area. Four of the routes (County-wide) were also selected as top priority. Of these, two are in the Central Point area:

Priority #1 -- Bear Creek Greenway System (between Central Point and Ashland).

Priority #4 -- Head/Hanley Route (Pine Street from Hwy. 99 to the Little League Fields on Hanley Road).

FACILITY TYPE SELECTION

Definitions:

Although terms may vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, there are some basic definitions related to bicycle facilities that help to describe them. The following definitions are fairly common and should aid in facility planning.

Bikeway -- A general term often applied to all those facilities which are provided specifically for bicycle travel along a designated course.

Bicycle Path -- A bikeway that is physically separated from motor vehicle and pedestrian conflicts, although in some cases the right-of-way may be shared with pedestrian traffic.

Bicycle Lane -- A separate lane established on a public street between traffic lanes and either the parking lane or curb. Motor vehicle parking within the bikelane is usually prohibited or prohibited during certain hours.

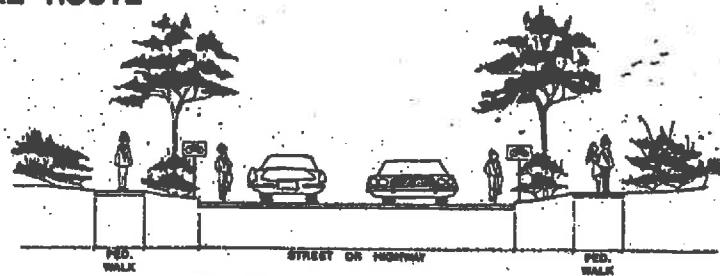
Bicycle Route -- Routes, usually on low-volume or residential streets, which are signed or otherwise marked as an official bike route. Off-street bikeways may be a part of the route, or linked with other routes to form a "system".

Bicycle System -- A comprehensively planned and coordinated network of bicycle facilities (including bicycle racks, mixed mode vehicles, etc.) which is established to meet the needs of the area.

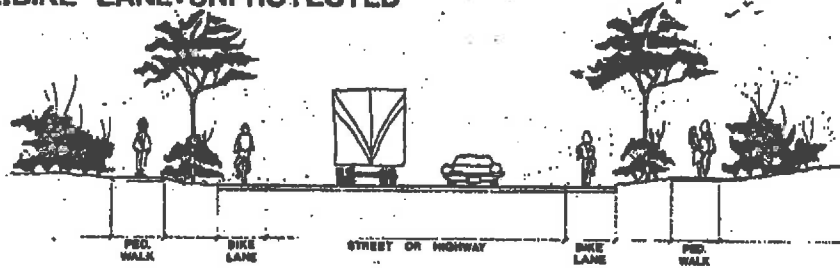
Bicycle-related Facilities -- These are any publicly provided facilities which are provided for cyclists and may include rest stops, bike racks and storage areas, mixed mode vehicles that carry bicycles, traffic signals for bicycle street crossings, etc.

GENERAL BIKEWAY TYPES

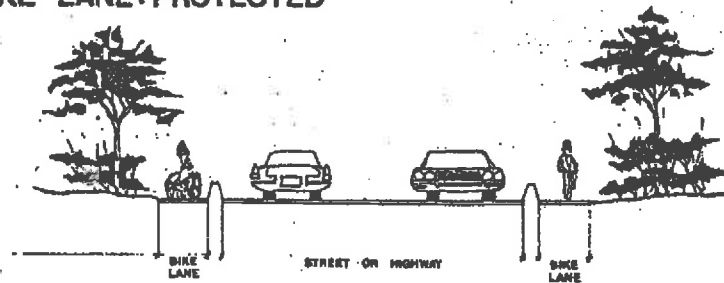
1. BIKE ROUTE



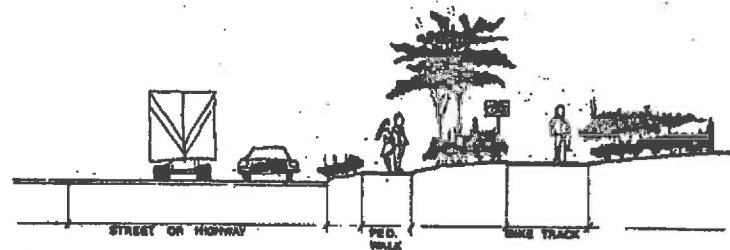
2. BIKE LANE: UNPROTECTED



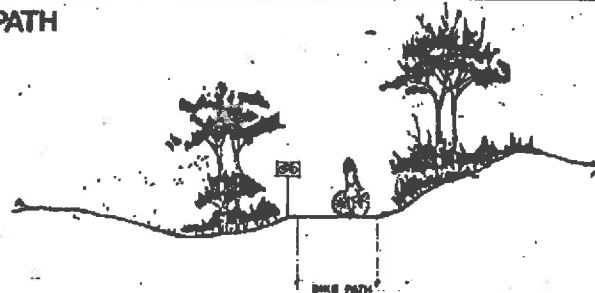
3. BIKE LANE: PROTECTED



4. BIKE TRACK



5. BIKE PATH



Facility Selection Criteria:

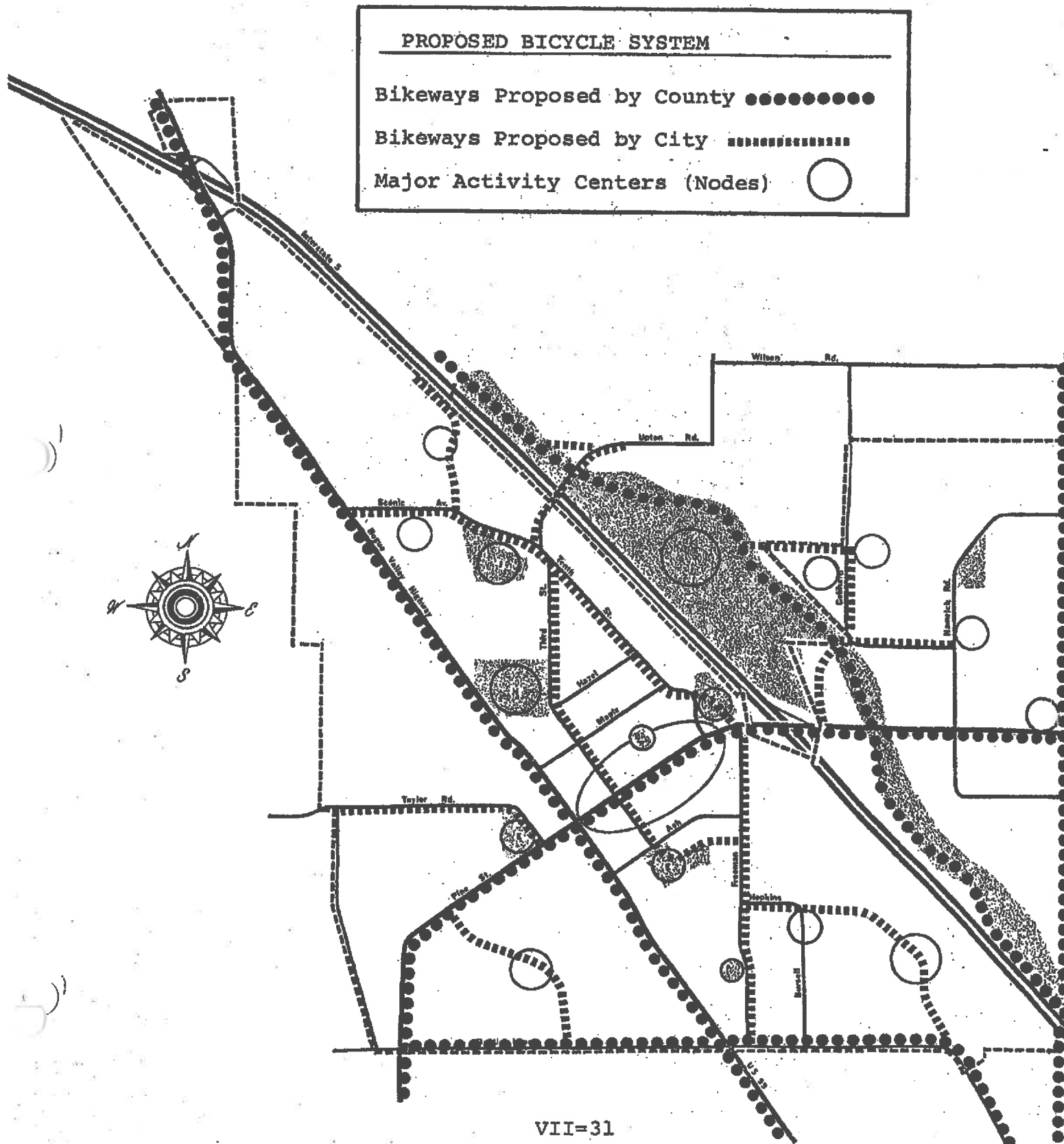
After identifying the needs for bicycle facilities in various parts of the community, parks and public facilities to be connected by bikeways, and other factors that may be appropriate, the City will be faced with the task of selecting the types of facilities that will yield the most benefit per unit of investment. At least four criteria should be considered in this selection process:

- Safety -- First and foremost, the provision of bicycle facilities should be based on the degree of safety offered to bicyclists, principally protection from motor vehicles.
- Environmental Attractiveness -- While the bicycle is a means of transportation, it is equally a means of recreation and enjoyment. Therefore, the provision of environmentally pleasant routes is much more important in bicycle planning than in planning for the more utilitarian and higher speed vehicles.
- System Continuity -- A principal objective in providing bicycle movement facilities should be a continuous system with a minimum of interruptions. While some forms of facilities may be safer or more attractive than others, there will be numerous situations where the most desirable solution will be impractical. In those cases, the goal of system continuity should take precedence.
- Cost -- Since the various types of bicycle facilities vary greatly in cost, these costs must be weighed against the estimated benefits of safety, environmental attractiveness, and system continuity before making a final determination.

PROPOSED BICYCLE SYSTEM

The subject of bicycle facilities logically applies to several of the statewide planning goals, including Goal #6 (related to the Air Quality provision), Goal #8 (Recreational Needs), Goal #11 (Public Facilities & Services), Goal #12 (Transportation), and Goal #13 (Energy Conservation). Obviously, the relationship between bicycle facilities and parks and recreation facilities is very close and important to the overall quality of life in Central Point. In addition to recreation, bicycle facilities are important components of the City's circulation/transportation system. The more detailed aspects of bicycle facilities will be included in the Circulation/Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

Central Point will have a considerable task ahead to develop the Plan details, ensure citizen and user input, and work out the details of implementation. The Proposed Bicycle System map is the first step. It shows the City's intent to develop a Plan that effectively links with the regional system (Jackson County) and best serve the cycling needs and desires of the Community.



PARKS & RECREATION POLICIES

GENERAL POLICIES

1. Continue to update data related to the present and future park and recreation needs and design facilities and programs that will satisfy those needs.
2. Coordinate efforts of the City with those of the County, State, adjacent municipalities, private and quasi-public organizations, and commercial enterprises to maximize the efficient use of all recreation-related resources in and adjacent to Central Point.
3. Coordinate program efforts with the School District to ensure the joint and balanced utilization of City and District facilities with a minimum of costly and unnecessary duplication of services.
4. Coordinate parks and recreation planning with the provisions and policies set forth in the Environmental Management Element, Energy Utilization Element and the Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan to maximize the visual, aesthetic, and energy conservation impacts of these facilities on the community as a whole.
5. Encourage the development of bicycle and pedestrian trails, separate from motor vehicle traffic, that will serve to link various components of the parks and recreation system of the community.
6. Ensure that the special needs of the elderly, handicapped and otherwise disadvantaged residents of the community are provided for in the planning and design of all major recreational facilities.
7. Seek financing for recreational facilities and park land acquisition and development through all available means, including taxation, bond issues, user fees, grants, or other appropriate sources.
8. Ensure the visual and aesthetic protection of the historic Central Point Elementary School through the design and development of a historical mini-park in front of the structure (north side) as described in this element of the Plan. The park should become a part of the overall restoration plan and program.
9. Provide for the physical and environmental protection of Jackson and Griffin Creeks as open space resource areas as described in the Environmental Management Element.

10. Support the concepts outlined in the "Trails for Oregon -- A Plan for a Recreation Trails System" developed by the Parks and Recreation Branch of the Oregon Department of Transportation, and continue to take advantage of opportunities to provide local linkages with this system.
11. Encourage programs of athletic activity that will promote the health and well-being of Central Point residents, especially those most popular major sports such as baseball, football, soccer, tennis, basketball, bicycling, running, and swimming.
12. Analyze and revise, if necessary, the City's Zoning and other ordinances that relate to recreation to provide for well-designed and appropriately-located commercial recreation and entertainment facilities that will supplement the City's and School District's public programs.
13. Develop a system of pedestrian/bicycle trails that will link with the County's bikeways system and with the Bear Creek Greenway system.
14. Utilize the State's gas tax allocation for bicycle trails and continually monitor the availability of other funds that could be utilized for the development of the parks and recreation facilities.

GREENWAY POLICIES

1. Support the efforts of the Bear Creek Greenway Committee and Jackson County in the acquisition and development of the Greenway.
2. Include the Bear Creek Greenway in the City's future bicycle, equestrian, and pedestrian trail system.
 - a. Interconnect the City's bicycle system with the Greenway to ensure ease of access, especially from recreation-oriented activity nodes such as schools and parks.
 - b. Provide major connections with the Greenway system near Upton Road and near Pine Street. These locations will also provide bridge crossings over Bear Creek.

3. Ensure, through development controls and requirements, that all new development adjacent to the Greenway corridor does not result in adverse impacts on the Greenway or Bear Creek itself.
- a. Do not allow the construction of physical land improvements or structures within 100 feet of the natural watercourse, with the exception of walls or fences separating the Greenway from private property.
 - b. Discourage direct access to the Greenway from adjacent properties, and provide a series of public accessways for this purpose.
 - c. Require that all properties, other than public, provide a fence, wall, or other barrier between the private property and Greenway lands to help ensure privacy, security and discouragement of trespassing onto private property along the Greenway.
 - d. Ensure that any waste products from grading or construction are not deposited within the Greenway and that such activities do not encroach into the Greenway corridor.